

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1602

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, XA
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG'S MEETING WITH TOGOLESE PRES-
IDENT EYADEMA

1. AMBASSADOR YOUNG MET FEBRUARY 8 IN KADUNA WITH TOGOLESE PRESIDENT EYADEMA TO REVIEW AFRICAN PROBLEMS. ALSO PRESENT WERE AMBASSADOR EASUM WHO SERVED AS INTERPRETER AND DENNIS KEOGH.

2. EYADEMA REMARKED THAT HE HAD MADE AN EFFORT TO UNDERSTAND WORLD PROBLEMS BY DISCUSSING THEM WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN TOGO, AS WELL AS OTHER WESTERN AMBASSADORS. HE HAD DISCUSSED THE ANGOLAN AFFAIR, FOR EXAMPLE, WHICH HAD CAUSED TOGO GREAT CONCERN BECAUSE IT SET A VERY UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT. TOGO, LIKE OTHER AFRICAN STATES, DID NOT WANT TO HAVE AN IDEOLGY IMPOSED ON IT. THE U.S., EYADEMA SAID, WAS A LARGE POWERFUL COUNTRY WHICH STOOD FOR LIBERTY AND UNDERSTOOD TOGO'S POSITION. OTHER GREAT POWERS WERE TRYING TO CREATE A ZONE OF INFLUENCE IN AFRICA AS IN THE ANGOLAN CASE, AND THIS LEFT TOGO VERY CONCERNED.

2. EYADEMA ASKED YOUNG TO RELAY HIS CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW
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U.S. PRESIDENT. HE ASKED YOUNG TO TELL PRESIDENT CARTER THAT TOGO'S DOOR STOOD OPEN FOR HIM. IT WAS UP TO THE U.S. TO REACT TO THE THREAT OF COMMUNISM IN AFRICA. IF THE U.S. DID NOT REACT ALL OF THE COUNTRIES IN AFRICA WOULD GO COMMUNIST. TOGO LIVED NEXT DOOR TO A COMMUNIST COUNTRY AND WAS VERY CONCERNED. WITHOUT AMERICAN SUPPORT, TOGO MIGHT HAVE TO GO COMMUNIST JUST TO SURVIVE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM AMBASSADOR EASUM, EYADEMA AGREED THAT NIGERIA DID NOT SEEM TO FEAR EITHER THE COMMUNIST OR WESTERN STATES. THE COMMUNISTS HAD GAINED POWER IN BENIN, HOWEVER, AND WOULD USE THAT AS A BASE TO TRY TO GAIN POWER IN NIGERIA AND THE WHOLE OF WEST AFRICA.

4. EYADEMA SAID THE U.S. FAILURE TO REACT IN ANGOLA MADE HIM AFRAID FOR THE FUTURE. HE THOUGHT IT WAS VERY SERIOUS FOR AFRICA, SINCE THE AFRICAN PEOPLE WERE NOT PREPARED TO RESIST COMMUNISM;

5. AMBASSADOR YOUNG COMMENTED THAT HE WAS SURE THAT THE COMMUNIST WOULD FAIL IN AFRICA BECAUSE OF THEIR RACISM. AFRICANS WHO HAD STUDIED IN THE USSR INEVITABLY RETURNED DISAPPOINTED, BECAUSE OF THE RACISM THEY FELT THERE. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AFRICA WERE BASED ON A MORE POSITIVE MOTIVE: OUR DESIRE TO HELP AFRICA ADVANCE ECONOMICALLY. YOUNG SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO WORKING MORE CLOSELY WITH TOGO. HE PLEDGED TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE TOGOLESE AT THE UN IN NEW YORK.
EASUM

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